

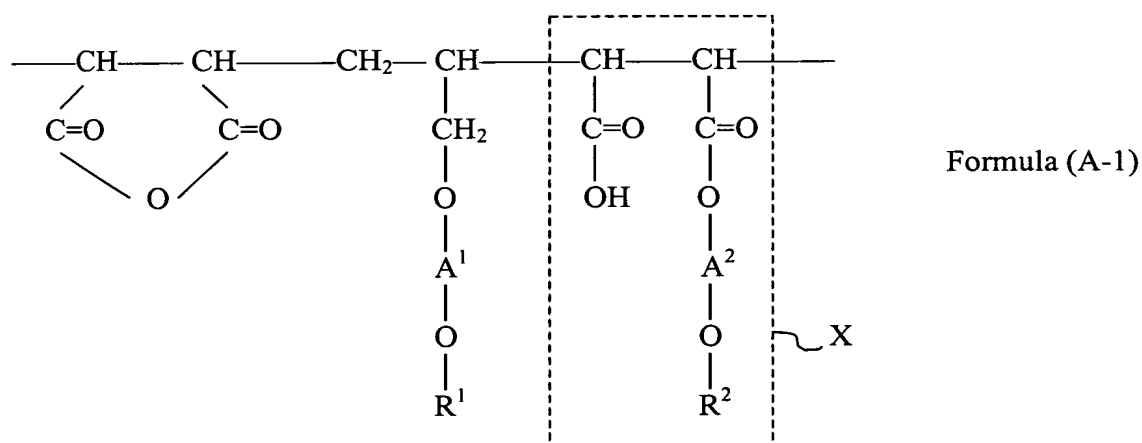
REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10 currently remain in the application. Claims 12-17 remain withdrawn as being addressed to a non-elected subject matter. Claims 2-9 and 11 have been canceled and no claims are herein amended.

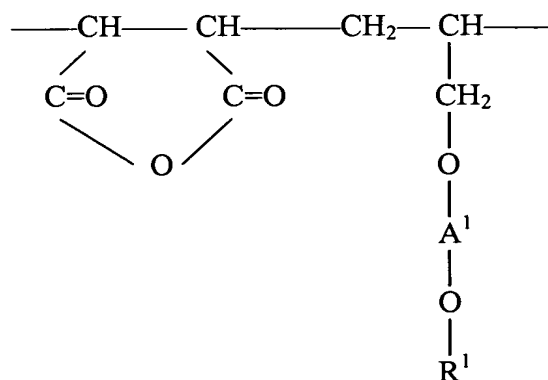
Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Kerkar in view of Ohta, further in view of Berke and still further in view of Kloetzer. Of the three components which are referred to as Components A, B and C in the rejected claims, Component C is organic phosphate and is essentially the same as described by Kloetzer by general formula (II), but Components A and B are not disclosed in any of the cited references, and applicant requests that the rejection be reversed for this reason. In what follows, applicant will show how Components A and B of this invention are different from what the cited references teach.

About Component A

If Component A is a graft copolymer obtained by a first process and a second process as stated in claim 1, such a graft copolymer will have units shown by Formula (A-1) below as its structural units:



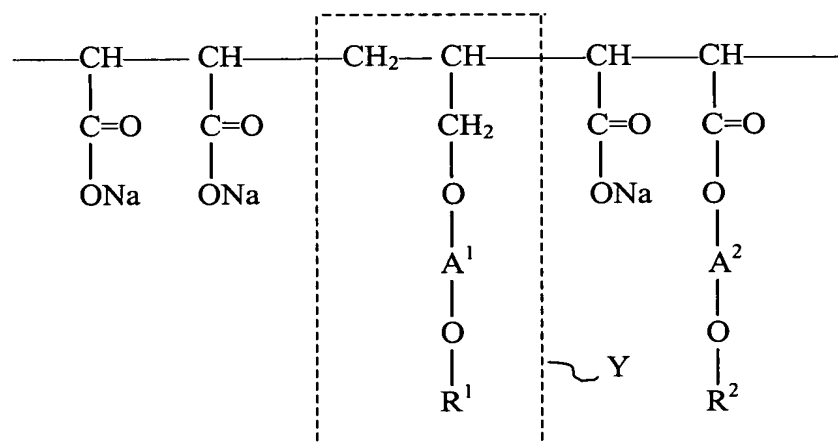
By contrast, the alkenyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer of Kerker (Column 3, lines 12-31) will have structural units shown by Formula (a) below:



Formula (a)

It can be seen clearly by comparing Formulas (A-1) and (a) that the unit shown in Formula (a) does not have the portion of Formula (A-1) surrounded by broken lines indicated by letter X. In other words, the graft copolymer according to this invention is different from the alkenyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer disclosed by Kerker.

If Component A is a salt of a graft copolymer obtained by a first process, a second process and a third process as stated in claim 1, such a salt of a graft copolymer will have units shown by Formula (A-2) below as its structural units:



Formula (A-2)

This formula is to be compared with the salts having structural units shown by Formulas S, A and B in columns 5 and 6 of Ohta. It can be seen clearly by comparing Formulas (A-2) with Formulas S, A and B of Ohta that the units shown in Formulas S, A and B do not have the portion of Formula (A-2) surrounded by broken lines indicated by letter Y.

In other words, the salts according to the present invention are different from those shown by Ohta.

About Component B

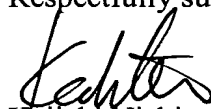
Component B according to claim 1 is polypropyleneglycol monoalkyl ether shown by Formula 3. By contrast, what is disclosed by Ohta (in column 9 at lines 26-29) is diethylene glycol dipropylene glycol monobutyl ether. As the part corresponding to polyalkylene glycol, Component B of this invention uses polypropylene glycol, while Ohta uses diethylene glycol dipropylene glycol. Therefore, they are different.

In summary, in spite of the Examiner's assertion, Component A is not described or even hinted at by Kerker and Component B is not described or even hinted at by Ohta. Applicant is therefore of the opinion that it is not obvious even for a person skilled in the art to use Component A on the basis of Kerker, which does not described it, and Component B on the basis of Ohta, which does not described it, together with Component C at specified ratios so as to obtain a concrete admixture of this invention.

Applicant's opinion of non-obviousness of claim 10 is similar to the argument presented above for the non-obviousness of claim 1.

In summary, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 14, 2007
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